

REMARKS

In present Office Action, dated October 5, 2004, claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1-10 have been rejected. Claims 1-2 have been rejected as allegedly being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. Claims 1-4 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,119,096 (Mann et al.). Claims 5 and 8 have been rejected as allegedly obvious over Mann et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,142,469 (Weisenborn). Claims 6-7 have been rejected as allegedly obvious over Mann et al. in view of Weisenborn and further in view of the Official Notice. Finally, claim 10 has been rejected as allegedly obvious over Mann et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,246,975 (Rivonelli et al.).

Previously presented claims 1-10 have been canceled. Newly introduced claims 11-30 recite the claimed invention in the Application. Thus, the rejection of claims 1 and 2 based on indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 is moot. Likewise, the obviousness rejection, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), based on Mann et al. and other references is also moot. However, Applicants take this opportunity to distinguish Mann et al. from the recited claims.

Initially, Applicants appreciate the extraordinary time and effort the Examiner has spent into drafting the October 5, 2004 Office Action. To assist the Examiner in bringing the newly introduced claims 11-30 to issuance, Applicants make the following remarks.

Newly Introduced Claims 11-30

Applicants have introduced new claims 11-30. Claim 11, for example, reads as follows:

A system for performing security checking, comprising:
an interface allowing a customer to order a security product, wherein the customer obtains the security product as a result of a verification of the customer's identity; and
a check-point, wherein the security product is provided at the check-point, and ***wherein the customer identity verification is determined before the arrival of the customer at the check-point.***

(emphasis added). As is clearly recited in claim 11, "***identity verification is determined before the arrival of the customer at the check-point***" (emphasis added). The Specification explains in detail *how* identity verification occurs ***before*** arrival at a check-point, specifically, a check-in location:

Once the order number is entered by the customer, system verifies the customer's identity via customer telephone interface 40 ... Once [the] customer telephone interface 40 verifies the customer's identity, confirmation of the verification is routed through modules 50 and 100 for receipt at the computer(s) at the customer's check-in location. When the customer arrives [some time later] at the check-in location, the security agent will [already] have on his computer confirmation of the earlier ID verification ...

(Specification, p. 54, ll. 7-20). In one instance, a customer can call in 30 minutes to one hour before check-in. (Specification, p. 55, ll. 11-12). Moreover, the Specification also explains *why* such identity verification *before* check-in is desirable and advantageous:

This procedure, due to the security afforded by the call-in ID verification, serves *to minimize the ID verification that is required to be conducted by the agent at the check-in counter*. Because of this, special expedited passage check-in counters may be provided....

(Specification, p. 55, ll. 3-7) (emphasis added). Thus, verifying identity *before* check-in saves the customer time and obviates the need to go through a laborious identification process. In the instance described above, because a call-in ID verification affords superior security, *part of the security determination is made before the customer even gets to the check-in*.

Conversely, references such as Mann et al. disclose general check-in systems. In Mann et al., "on arrival at the airport, the passenger is *identified* using iris recognition system *and* automatically *checked in* for the flight..." (Abstract). Thus, in Mann et al., the identification of the passenger occurs at the check-in stage, and not before the check-in stage—as recited in claim 11. Therefore, Mann et al. requires a passenger to go through a potentially laborious identification process if the scanning of the iris process 308 cannot make a match in the database 310. *See* Figure 3.

In contrast, claim 11 establishes identity of the customer before check-in, so that all that is left to do is for security personnel to decide, for example, based on a security rating, whether to let the customer to proceed with the public transportation or gain access to the public venue.

Independent claim 11 contains similar limitations to independent claims 21 and 30 which are missing from Mann et al.: "a check-point, wherein the security product is provided at the check-point, and *wherein the customer identity verification is determined before the*

arrival of the customer at the check-point" (claim 11) (emphasis added); "receiving the security product at a security check-point, wherein the security product minimizes identification verification at the check-point, and *wherein the customer's identity is verified before the arrival of the customer at the check-point*" (claim 21) (emphasis added); "applying the product at a gate for security assessment, *wherein identity verification of the individual is determined before the arrival of the individual at the gate*" (emphasis added) (claim 30).

Claims 12-20, 22-29 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 11 and 21, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 11-30 patentably define over Mann et al. alone or in combination with any other cited references. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowability of the newly introduced claims is thus earnestly solicited.

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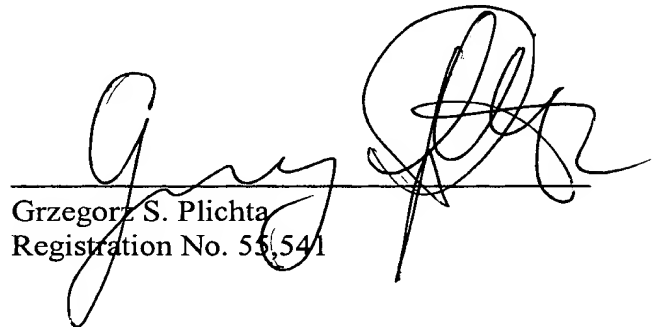
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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and submit that Claims 11-30 of the Application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

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